(b) The proposal envisages import of raw materials worth Rs. 8.60 crores during the first 5 years of production.

(c) and (d) The Corporation has stated that the raw materials proposed to be imported are only those which are not being manufactured indigenously and which are being imported by the existing soft drink industry. These will include items such as natural essential oils, colanut extract, gun arabica and other ingredients presently not available in the country. The Corporation has also stated that as and when these raw materials are produced indigenously of appropriate quality standards they will reduce their import accordingly.

Protest against the entry of Pepsi Gola

646. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Perfumes and Flavour Association of India has protested against the proposed entry of Pepsi Cola into India; and

(b) if so, what items M/s. Pepsi propose to import which the industry in India cannot supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Three firms namely, M/s. Saiba Industries Private Limited, Bombay, M/s. Robin Chemicals (Private) Limited, Madras, and M/s. Bush Boake Allen (India) Limited, Madras, belonging to the Perfume and Flavour Industry, have represented against the proposal for import of "Proprietory Ingredients" by the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation for manufacture of soft drink concentrate.

(b) The Punjab Agro Industries Corporation has stated that the raw materials proposed to be imported are those which are not being manufactured indigenously and which are already being imported by the existing soft drink industry. These will include items such as natural peel oil, cola nut extract, gum arabica and other ingredients presently not available indigenously. The Corporation has also stated that as and when these raw materials are produced indigenously of appropriate quality standards they will reduce their imports accordingly. It may be added that Government has not yet taken a decision on the proposal of the Corporation and that import of raw materials in all cases will be regulated in accordance with the import policy prevailing from time to time.

Four wheeler Gypsy by Maruti Udyog Ltd.

647. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti Udyog Limited has decided to discontinue manufacture of four-wheel drive Gypsy and instead trying to develop a 1000-c.c. car which will be fitted with gypsy engines; if so, the reasons therefor and what has been the sale record of gypsy; and

(b) whether Maruti Udyog Ltd. is preparing to launch a 400-c.c. car soon; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Appointment of whole time Chief Electoral Officers

648. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has suggested to Government for the appointment of whole time Chief Electoral Officers to the States to strengthen the election machinery and whether the Commission has also suggested the filling up of gaps in the election law by introducing

guidelines to some sections of Representation of People Act; and

(b) if so, what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These suggestions have been made by the Election Commission as part of the proposals for Electoral Reform. All such proposals are under examination. Government propose to consult the political parties before taking a final decision.

Assembly elections

649. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the states where the Assembly elections are due during the current year and when it is due in each case;

(b) whether some of the State Governments have suggested certain dates for conducting the elections;

(c) if so, the details and reasons for not conducting the elections on the proposed dates;

(d) whether the dates of elections to the State Assemblies which are likely to be held before May this year have been announced; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The States where the assembly elections are due in this year are West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir. In the case of West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala and Nagaland, the general elections are for the purpose of constituting a new Legislative Assembly on the expiry of the term of the existing Legislative Assembly, while in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the State Legislative Assembly was dissolved in November, 1986 and the election should be held before March for completing the requisite financial business. The dates on which the term of the Legislative Assembly of the State are due to expire are as follows:—

1. West Bengal	....	13-6-1987
2. Haryana	....	23-6-1987
3. Kerala	....	23-6-1987
4. Nagaland	....	28-11-1987

(b) to (d) The Government of West Bengal had requested the Election Commission to hold the elections to the State Assembly on the 22nd February, 1987. A request was also received from the Government of Kerala that the elections to that State Assembly should be held in March, 1987. As the process of election, including the period of advance notice and the period which may have to be left after the date of poll for providing for unforseen conteingencies, takes about 45 days, the process of general elections should have been initiated in the case of West Bengal around the last week of April, 1987 and in the case of Haryana and Kerala, in the first week of May, 1987, and in the case of Nagaland, in the early part of October, 1987. The Commission was not in favour of holding the general election on the date suggested by the State Government of West Bengal, as it was felt that in view of the complaints received from time to time with respect to the revision of rolls, some time for receipt and disposal of appeals and for receipt of fresh applications for enrolment in the electoral rolls should be allowed. The Commission was also anxious to follow the convention of holding, as far as possible, general elections due around the same time according to a common programme. In the light of these considerations the Election Commission has announced the programme of general elections to Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Kerala Assemblies in such a manner as to have the date of poll on the 23rd March, 1987. By this process, the request of the Government of West Bengal was met